25. A vector according to claim 24 wherein the insect receptor is the locust tyramine receptor.

26. A cell according to claim 5 which is transformed with a vector comprising a sequence which encodes a non-mammalian protein receptor under the control of a globin promoter.

27. A cell according to claim 5 which has been transformed such that it contains a globin promoter associated with a cloning site and/or a reporter cassette containing a reporter gene, such as the β-galactosidase gene, under the control of a response element susceptible to modulation by a signalling cascade used in an assay.

28. A cell according to claim 26 which further comprises an enhancer, able to increase expression of a gene placed under the control of said globin promoter and/or is at an optimal distance of said reporter cassette such that the expression is dependent on the concentration of a particular downstream component in the signalling cascade.

29. A cell according to claim 28 wherein the enhancer is the LCR enhancer.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-29 will be pending. The foregoing amendments were made to eliminate multiple dependency and correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this correspondence. However, please charge any payments due or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,
HALE AND DORR LLP

Colleen Superko
Reg. No. 39,850

Dated: November 5, 2001

HALE AND DORR LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Tel.: (617) 526-6000
Fax: (617) 526-5000

MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)

1. The use of an erythroid cell which is substantially undifferentiated, but which is capable of expressing a heterologous protein under the control of a globin promoter thereof, in an assay in which said protein interacts with an endogenous signalling cascade of said cell and said interaction is detected.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein said erythroid cell is a murine erythroleukaemia (MEL) cell, rat erythroleukaemia cell (REL) or a human erythroleukaemia cell (HEL).

3. The use according to claim 2 wherein the erythroid cell is a murine erythroleukaemia cell.

4. The use according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ **claim 1** wherein the said globin promoter is the β-globin promoter.

5. An ~~erythoid~~ **erythroid** cell which is substantially undifferentiated but which is capable of expressing proteins under the control of a globin promoter thereof at levels which allow use in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ **claim 1**.

6. An erythoid cell according to claim 5 which comprises a cell as deposited at the European Collection of Cell Cultures under Accession number 99012801.

7. A method of producing an erythroid cell according to claim 5 which method comprises maintaining growing uninduced erythroid cells in culture for a sufficient period of time and isolating a subclone which expresses protein under the control of a globin promoter.

8. A method for determining the interaction between a receptor protein and a potential agonist or antagonist therefor, said method comprising